

MOTION BY SUPERVISOR MICHAEL D. ANTONOVICH AND  
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October 19, 2010

**CONTINUING TO KEEP CHILDREN SAFE UNDER THE IV-E WAIVER**

An October 19, 2010 article by the Los Angeles Times entitled "L.A. County Child Abuse Deaths Rising" builds an unsupported nexus between child deaths and the Los Angeles County's Title IV-E Waiver. The article indicates that the Waiver's efforts to keep children safely in their homes has led to a reluctance to detain children from dangerous parents.

According to figures from the Interagency Council on Child Abuse and Neglect (ICAN), the number of children dying from abuse and neglect has dropped from **72 in 1989** to **43 in 2009**. Throughout the Title IV-E Waiver, the rate of removals of children from their birth homes has remained steady, averaging 900 per month or 11,000 annually. These numbers of removals have remained steady pre- and post-Waiver. Therefore, the IV-E Waiver has not impacted or decreased Los Angeles County's overall rate of detaining children from their birth homes.

However, having any child in an unsafe situation, whether in his/her birth home or out-of-home care, is of utmost concern to this Board. The County structure, which charges the Department of Children and Family Services with the responsibility for child safety but leaves the authority for supportive services and staffing resources with other departments, results in the County's limited ability to manage its top priority of child safety, embedded within all countywide social and public safety problems.

**WE, THEREFORE, MOVE** that the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors direct the Chief Executive Officer and the Director of the Department of Children and Family Services to report back in 14 days on the outcomes of the Title IV-E Waiver to date; and address the issues brought forth in the Los Angeles County IV-E Waiver CAP Interim Evaluation Report completed by State Evaluator Dr. Charles Ferguson.

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**MOTION**

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